

Albatrosses have a habit of maltreating their neighbors' children, particularly just after they have fed their own young and while the latter are still annoying them by petitioning for more. The old bird having repeated the process shown in the illustrations some eight or ten times finds herself pumped quite empty. She now pecks back at her nestling, or runs off and trounces some neighboring young, provided the parents are absent. Figure 12 shows a black-footed albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*), a species which lives only on the beaches near the water, walking and mauling a nestling. Its own young is seen at a little distance.

The albatrosses pursue their varied occupations on Laysan for ten months of each year, and during September and October spread far and wide over the north Pacific for a short vacation.

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An Early Notice of Philippine Birds

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IN the library of the Ethnological Survey in Manila is a curious old set of quarto volumes containing "A Collection of Voyages and Travels"^a to all parts of the world, including accounts of shipwrecks, fights with pirates, and other adventures by land and sea. In the fourth volume is given the narrative of Dr. John Careri,^b "A Doctor of the Civil Law, well provided with Money to make him acceptable in all Parts," who through crosses at home was led to make a journey round the world. He left Italy, his native land, in 1693 and returned in 1699. His quaint observations on all manner of things in the countries he visited are entertaining if of no more value. He spent some time in the Philippines during the years 1696 and '97. His account of the birds seems to be worth reproduction as containing very early notices of several well known species. The account of the birds begins on page 454 as follows:

"Among the Birds of the Islands the *Tavon*^c deserves to have special Mention

^aA | Collection | of | Voyages and Travels. | Some now first Printed from *Original* | Manuscripts. | Others Translated out of Foreign Languages, and now | first published in *English*. | To which are added some few that have formerly appeared in *English*, but do now for their Excellency | and Scarceness deserve to be Reprinted. [rule] In four Volumes. [rule] With a General PREFACE, giving an Account of the NAVIGATION, from its first Beginning to the Perfection it is now in, &c. [rule] The whole Illustrated with a great Number of Useful Maps and Cuts, all Engraven on Copper. [rule] The Authors contain'd in this Volume, see over Leaf. [rule] Vol. IV. [rule] London: | Printed by H. C. for Awn. SHAM and JOHN CHURCHILL at | the *Black-Swan* in *Pater-noster-Row*, MDCCIV. Although projected in four volumes there were added four more making eight in the set examined. The title pages differ in some of the later volumes.

^bA Voyage round the World, by Dr. *John Francis Gemelli Careri*, containing the most remarkable Things in *Turkey, Persia, India, China, the Philippine-Islands and New Spain*. Translated from the *Italian*. (pp. 1-605) It is not stated where this was first published. Perhaps it was never printed in the original.

^c*Megapodius cumingi* Dillwyn. Of the family Megapodidae or mound-builders, including 7 genera all confined to the Oriental and Australian Regions. The genus *Megapodius*, according to Sharpe, contains 17 species, distributed from the Mariannes to Australia. Six species are found in New Guinea, but five of these range to other islands. *M. cumingi* is the only species recognized in the Philippines where it occurs on nearly all the islands. Both from the name given and the description of the peculiar nesting habits there is no doubt that our author refers to this bird. The bird is very generally called "Tabon," but "v" and "b" being more or less interchangeable in the native dialects will account for his calling it "Tavon." It has nothing to do with a "Sea Fowl" as we understand that term. It is plainly colored and might be described as black. The neck and legs, however, are not long tho it does have very heavy feet and long strong claws. The description of the nesting habits is accurate enough but the nests are by no means always near the water and it is doubtful if anything short of a tidal wave would trouble them. The wonderful embryology, as described, it is needless to say is a pure fabrication. The tabon probably nests throughout the year. I have taken eggs in May and in October.

made of it, as well for its Quality, as because it is not known whether there are any of the Species elsewhere. It is a Sea Fowl and Black. As to its size it is less than a Hen but has a long Neck and Legs, and lays its Eggs in a light Sandy Ground. These Eggs are wonderful; for besides their being as large as a Gooses, when Boil'd there is very little White found in them, but all Yolk, yet not so well tasted as a Hens. The strangeness of them is, that contrary to all others, when the chickens are hatch'd the Yolk appears whole and sweet as it was at first, with the Chickens Beak fast, and without any White. By this it appears that it is not always true, that the generative Virtue of the Seed makes the Yolk Fruitful, and that in this Case the Yolk serves for the same use as *Placenta Uterina* does to an Infant.

"The Chickens roasted before they are fledg'd prove as good as the best Pigeons. The *Spaniards* very often eat the Chicken and the Yolk of the Egg together in the same Dish. The old bird is eaten by the *Indians*, but is tough. The Hen lays about 40 or 50 Eggs in a Trench near the Sea and covers them with Sand. For this reason it is call'd *Tavon*, which in the language of the Islands signifies to cover with Earth. There the heat of the Sand hatches them, and the Chickens feed on the Yolk, till they gather Strength to break the Shell, throw up the Sand and get out. Then the Hen which keeps about the neighboring Trees, runs about them making a Noise, and the young ones hearing her labor the harder to get out to her. This is no less wonderful than what the Scripture says of the Ostriches Eggs, *Job 39*. We see the disposition of Providence, in giving this Bird that Instinct to bury its Eggs so deep, and the Chicken such long Claws, as to make its way. They make nests in *March, April* and *May*, like the *Halcions* the Antients make mention of; because at that time the Sea is Calmest, and the Waves do not swell so high as to spoil them. The Sailors go in quest of them along the shore, and where they find the Sand has been thrown up they open it with a stick, where they sometimes find Eggs and sometimes Chickens, which are equally Valuable and Nourishing.

"There is also a sort of Turtle-Dove with gray Feathers on the Back, and white on the Breast, in the midst whereof is a red Spot, like a Wound with the fresh Blood upon it.^d

"The *Colin*^e is a Fowl as big as a Black-Bird, Black and Ash colour'd; without any Feathers on its Head, but instead of it a Crown of Flesh. That is yet stranger which the *Spaniards* call *Paloma-Torcaz*^f; it is of several colors, as Gray, Green, Red and White on the Breast, with the same Spot like a Wound on the Breast; and the Beak and Feet Red. * * * *

"The *Salangan*^g is a strange Bird of the Islands of *Calamianes, Xolo* and others. It is as big as a Swallow, and builds a little Nest on the Rocks over the Sea-shore.

^d *Phlogoenas luzonica* (Scopoli). The plumage is much as described and very striking, the breast spot looking exactly like a blood-stained wound. The genus contains about 30 species of very beautiful ground doves inhabiting the islands of the Australian Region. Five species are found only in the Philippines.

^e *Sarcops calvus* Linnaeus. A peculiar starling, the single species being confined to the Philippines. The word "Colin" or more properly "Coling" is the native name in many parts of the Islands at the present time.

^f The "Paloma-Torcaz" is doubtless *Phlogoenas luzonica* referred to above or possibly some other species of the genus. There is no other genus of dove in the Islands which has this peculiar breast mark.

^g *Salangana francica* (Gmelin). The author is quite correct in stating that this is one of the edible nest swifts. Seven species have been recorded from the Philippines.

cleaving to the Rocks as the Swallows (p. 455) do to the Wall. These are the so famous Birds Nests, whereof we have spoke in the foregoing Volume^h.

"The *Herrero*ⁱ is a green Bird, as big as a Hen. Nature has furnish'd it with such a large and hard Beak, that it bores the Bodies of Trees to build its Nest. From the Noise it makes at this Work, which is heard at a great distance, the *Spaniards* took occasion to give it this name of *Herrero* or Smith. Others think it was so call'd for an knowledge of an Herb, which lay'd upon Iron breaks it; for it is known by experience that the Hole on (sic) the Tree being cover'd with an iron Plate to save the Young that are in the Nest, it seeks out this Herb, and laying it on the Plate, breaks it, and so clears the way; but I will not vouch for the Truth hereof.

"There is another rare bird call'd *Colo-Colo*^j, little less than an Eagle, Black, and half Fish half Bird, for it equally dives under Water, and flies in the Air. It overtakes any Fish and kills it with its Beak which is half a Yard long. The Feathers are so close that as soon as out of the Water it shakes them dry.

"In the Island of *Calamianes* there are abundance of Peacocks^k. The wild Mountain Cocks^l supply the want of Pheasants and Partridges, and well dress'd and excellently tasted. The Quails^m are half as big as ours, and have a red Beak and Feet.

"In all the Islands at all times there are green Birds call'd *Volanos*ⁿ and several sorts of Parrots^o, and white *Cacatuas*^p, which have a Tuft of Feathers on their Head. * * * *

"The *Oydor* or Judge, *D. John Serra*, show'd me another dead Bird that had most beautiful Feathers, as big as a Black-Bird, brought him from the Island of *Borneo*, where it was taken. It had no Feet, but only great Wings to bear it up, and is therefore call'd the Bird of Paradise^q. *F. Combes* in his History of the Island of *Mindanao*, says there are such there."

Manila, P. I.

^h The following is the passage referred to: "The Birds Nests are taken on the Coast of *Cochinchina*, the Islands of *Borneo*, *Calamianes*, and others of the Archipelago of *S. Lazara*, where they are built upon inaccessible Rocks, by certain Birds like Swallows, so artificially that they are eaten steep'd in warm Water, to take out any Feathers there may be in them. It is not known to this Day, whether they are made from Clay, or of what the Bird fetches from its Stomach; but they are of great nourishment, and taste like the *Italian Vermicelli*." (page 374).

ⁱ I cannot make this out unless it is one of the hornbills (*Bucerotidae*). None of them, however, are green and I doubt if they dig their own nesting holes. Five genera are known from the Philippines, three of which are confined to the group, viz: *Hydrocorax*, 3 species; *Gymnolæmus*, 1 species; *Penelopides*, 6 species.

^j *Plotus melanogaster* (Gmelin) probably. The single species found in these Islands ranges over the greater part of the Oriental Region and into Celebes. I have never heard the name "Colo-Colo." The bird is known to the natives as "Casili."

^k None has been recorded from the Calamianes

^l *Gallus gallus* Linnaeus. The wild chicken, or jungle fowl is common in most of the Islands and abundant in the Calamianes.

^m Four species of quails have been recorded from the Archipelago, all of them minute compared with our American partridges. I know of none with red bill and feet.

ⁿ I don't know the "Volano."

^o Four genera of parrots are present in the Philippines. *Prioniturus*, 7 species; *Tanytharus*, 3 species; *Bolbopsittacus*, 3 species; genus peculiar to Philippines; *Loriculus*, 8 species.

^p *Cacatua hæmaturophygia* (P. L. S. Mueller). *Cacatua* contains 17 species, distributed over the Oriental Region, except the present species which is common in most of the Philippine Islands.

^q These birds were long thought to be without feet as all the early specimens were obtained from nations who cut off the feet, none of this family has ever been found in Mindanao tho the myth that they occur there still persists.